

Hartford Courant

Letter to the Editor - February 6, 2011

Real Financial Effect Of Sunday Liquor Sales Hasn't Been Spelled Out

Given all of the writing in The Courant by Tom Condon and others on topics such as smart growth and open space, I was surprised to read the last sentence of the Feb. 3 editorial "End Sunday Sales Ban": "Quaint blue laws protecting a relatively few small operators have no business being on the books in the 21st century."

Did the 2009 study on increased sales tax revenue also look at the cost to the state of putting those few small operators out of business? What about the lost job income of their workers and the resulting lost income tax revenue? What about the lost rent revenue to the landlords of those businesses and the tax on that? Fred Carstensen, UConn director of economic analysis, was quoted as asking for a comprehensive study, and the editorial's response was to cite a study of just the Sunday sales and tax revenue.

I really thought The Courant's editorial staff understood the complex interconnections involved in local economies, land use and quality of life, and the need for long-term planning to solve the state's critical issues. We need to foster more long-term planning on critical issues, not spend time advocating for people who can't plan a day ahead.

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